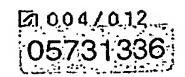10

Claims

1. A top closure panel (20) for closing the top of an open-topped container (10), the panel having at least one aperture, each to receive a portion of an

5   article held within the container(56), and having a tear feature (37) for enlarging the size of the or each aperture, the tear feature comprising at least one discrete group of score lines, the score lines radiating from the aperture substantially perpendicular to a notional radial line characterised in that the relationship between the score lines in the group is such that removal of an

10   article through the aperture causes a tear to propagate divergently between successive radial score lines from the notional radial line thereby causing the size of the aperture to be progressively increased.

2. A top closure panel according to claim 1 wherein the aperture

15   comprises means for initiating tearing of the panel disposed between the aperture and the or each group of score lines.

3. A top closure panel according to claim 2 wherein the initiating means comprises a further score line disposal substantially on the notional radial line.

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4. A top closure panel according to claim 1 wherein the or each discrete group of score lines comprises at least two score lines wherein the score line furthest from the aperture is longer than a score line closest to the aperture.

25   5. A top closure panel according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the or each discrete group of score lines comprises five score lines concentrically arranged such that a score line closest to an aperture is in overlapping relation with at least two score lines further spaced from the aperture .

30   6. A top closure panel according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein a termination of one score line is spaced between 1mm and 5mm from a termination of an adjacent score line.

7.   A top closure panel as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the top closure panel is prevented from being completely released from the open top container by a retaining means (28, 92) provided by the top closure panel, wherein the retaining means (76) is so adapted as to engage complementary

5   retaining means within the open top container.

8.   A top closure panel according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the score lines are of substantially equal length.

10   9.   A top closure panel according to claim 7 wherein the score lines furthest from the aperture are larger than the score lines closest to the aperture

10.   A blank for forming a top closure panel (20) for closing the top of an

15   open-topped container (10), the panel having at least one aperture, each to receive a portion of an article held within the container(56), and having a tear feature (37) for enlarging the size of the or each aperture, the tear feature comprising at least one discrete group of score lines, the score lines radiating from the aperture substantially perpendicular to a notional radial line

20   characterised in that the relationship between the score lines in the group is such that removal of an article through the aperture causes a tear to propagate divergently between successive radial score lines from the notional radial line thereby causing the size of the aperture to be progressively increased.

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11.   A blank for forming a top closure panel according to claim 10 wherein the or each discrete group of score lines comprises at least two score lines wherein the score line furthest from the aperture is longer than the score line closest to the aperture.

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12.   A blank according to either one of claims 10 or 11 wherein the tearing feature further comprises an initiating means which extends normally from an edge of the aperture and towards the group of short slits.

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13.   A blank for forming a top closure panel according to any of claims 1 to
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14.   A top closure panel according to claim 3 wherein the initiating score
5   line extends radially along the notional radial line substantially towards the
centre of the score line closest to the aperture.

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